

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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HUD, VA Grants Going to Douglas County Public Housing Agencies *More Than \$149K to Provide Permanent Housing for Homeless Veterans*

OMAHA, Neb. – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki has announced the award of \$149,868 to the public housing agency in Douglas County to supply permanent housing and case management for Nebraska's 145,200 veterans.

"This initiative will strengthen our ongoing efforts to eliminate veteran homelessness by 2015 and improve quality of life for veterans," Secretary Shinseki said. "Working with our partners at HUD and in Congress, we continue to make good progress to reduce veteran homelessness, though much work remains. VA is committed to providing veterans and their families with access to affordable housing and medical services that will help them get back on their feet."

The funding, from Housing and Urban Development's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program (HUD-VASH), is a coordinated effort by HUD, VA and local housing agencies to provide permanent housing for homeless veterans.

Homeless veterans are referred to the public housing agencies for "Housing Choice" Section 8 vouchers to assist with rent payment. Eligible homeless veterans receive VA-provided case management and services to support stability and recovery from physical and mental health, substance use, and functional concerns contributing to or resulting from homelessness.

The Douglas County Housing Authority will get 25 housing vouchers for \$149,868.

Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent. VA offers eligible homeless veterans clinical and supportive services through its medical center in Omaha.

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HUD-VA GRANTS 2/2/2/2

More information about VA's homeless programs is available online at <http://www.va.gov/homeless>.

The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System proudly serves more than 167,660 veterans in Nebraska, western Iowa and portions of Kansas and Missouri. Omaha's medical center is an inpatient facility and also a large outpatient clinic for primary and specialty care. A Community Living Center is in Grand Island. There are community-based outpatient clinics in Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Holdrege, Norfolk, Bellevue and Shenandoah, Iowa, and an outreach clinic in O'Neill, Neb. For more information, visit <http://www.nebraska.va.gov>.

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